

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 HA-05 MCT-02 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01

SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 /080 W

-----096735 041634Z /64

O R 041600Z AUG 78

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1984

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

/AMEMBASSY MAPUTO 2690

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, WA

SUBJECT: NAMIBIA: SAG SAYS TERRORISTS STEP UP ACTIVITY

1. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS OF AUGUST 4 FROM WINDHOEK AND OSHAKATI, TERRORIST ACTIVITY IN THE TERRITORY HAS INCREASED SHARPLY DURING THE PAST TWO WEEKS AND SOUTH AFRICAN MILITARY AUTHORITIES EXPECT CONTINUING ESCALATION. ACCORDING TO ONE REPORT, AT LEAST 120 SWAPO TERRORISTS WERE KNOWN TO HAVE INFILTRATED INTO OVAMBO LAST WEEK BUT SINCE FLED BACK ACROSS THE BORDER.

2. THE COMMANDING OFFICER OF THE SOUTH WEST AFRICAN COMMAND, GENERAL GELDENHUYS, WAS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT SWAPO'S COMMAND

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AND CONTROL SYSTEMS WERE DEALT A HEAVY BLOW BY THE MAY 4 SADF RAID INTO ANGOLA, BUT THAT NOW SWAPO IS BEGINNING TO "REDEPLOY GROUPS" INTO OVAMBO. THE GENERAL REPORTEDLY DISCLOSED THAT SWAPO ACTIVITY DROPPED FROM ABOUT 50 INCIDENTS A MONTH TO ALMOST ZERO AFTER THE STRIKE INTO ANGOLA BUT ARE NOW INCREASING AGAIN. IN ONE REPORTED INCIDENT, A SWAPO TERRORIST WEARING A SOUTH AFRICAN ARMY UNIFORM

ALLEGEDLY MURDERED A SCHOOL TEACHER IN OVAMBO LAST WEEK.

3. COMMENT: SWAPO TERRORIST ACTIVITIES ARE LIKELY INCREASING. IT IS UNCERTAIN WHETHER THIS IS A RESULT OF SWAPO MILITARY COMMANDERS SIMPLY ACTING ON STANDING ORDERS OR WHETHER IT REFLECTS A DELIBERATE EFFORT BY SWAPO TO INCREASE TERRORIST ACTIONS WHILE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WESTERN PROPOSAL IS BEING PREPARED. IN ANY EVENT, A CONCERTED EFFORT TO MINIMIZE VIOLENCE AT THIS TIME IS WARRANTED. AS IN THE PAST, APPROACHES SHOULD BE MADE TO ALL THE PARTIES CONCERNED. IT WOULD BE MOST EFFECTIVE IF THE CONTACT GROUP COULD ENCOURAGE THE SECRETARY GENERAL TO ISSUE AN APPEAL TO ALL PARTIES AND PERHAPS TO APPROACH THE FRONT LINE STATES AND URGE THAT THEY EXERT THEIR INFLUENCE TO MINIMIZE VIOLENCE IN THIS PARTICULARLY SENSITIVE PERIOD. THE CONTACT GROUP COULD THEN ENDORSE THE SYG'S MESSAGE AND PERHAPS DON MCHENRY COULD FOLLOW UP WITH A PERSONAL MESSAGE TO LUANDA WHICH MAY BE IN THE BEST POSITION TO INFLUENCE SWAPO.
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Message Attributes

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